



From Policy to Practice – Putting SREB’s Student Success Framework into Action

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Roadmap for Today's Dialogue

- I. **Your Input, Our Progress:** The Published Framework (<https://www.sreb.org/student-success-framework>)
- II. **Turning Pillars into Action:** Professional Learning Communities
- III. **Bridging Practice and Policy:** Tools for Impact
- IV. **Beyond the Pilot:** Scaling Success Across States

Why a Framework for Student Success?

1. Increase Access for All Students
2. Support Completion and Persistence
3. Align Education With Workforce Need
4. Facilitate Seamless Transitions
5. Data-Driven Strategies
6. Strengthen Economic Outcomes
7. Holistic Student Support

SREB's Student Success Framework

The Southern Regional Education Board defines Student Success as access to and completion of postsecondary credentials that lead to lifelong learning, fulfilling careers and stronger economies. SREB has identified four pillars as the foundation of the framework for Student Success — access, persistence, retention and attainment.

Each of these pillars has key practices associated with K-12 schools, postsecondary institutions and state level educators or policymakers that guide education leaders and help build their capacity to support student success. SREB created the *Student Success Framework* to guide institutions, state agencies, workforce and communities in integrating these practices in their policies while incorporating student feedback to refine and improve support services.

What is the Student Success Framework?

Developed by SREB
with input from leaders
from K-12,
postsecondary, and
state-level policy makers
across the SREB region

Four pillars: Access,
Persistence, Retention,
Attainment

Focused on actionable
practices and
measurable impact

The 4 Pillars Defined

Access	The capacity of all institutional stakeholders to prepare students to pursue and succeed in education beyond high school, encompassing awareness of various options, entry requirements and processes, and affordability.
Persistence	Emphasizes individual agency and goal-oriented progress towards personal goals in an aligned and transparent system by actively engaging with resources and supports.
Retention	Providing students with tools and services that enable them to complete their intended courses of study, including streamlined processes, robust support services, comprehensive learning environments, clear academic and career pathways, and proactive monitoring and support of each student's progress.
Attainment	The completion of postsecondary education and training, including certificates, degrees, and work-based experiences, to prepare individuals for fulfilling careers and foster a diverse, skilled workforce.

Adaptable Across Contexts

K-12 Schools

Postsecondary

State Level/
Policymaker



The framework includes student success indicators tailored to three distinct audiences. This facilitates strategic alignment and collaboration between organizations.

Four Themes emerged across the pillars for student success. The framework can be used to address high priority needs.



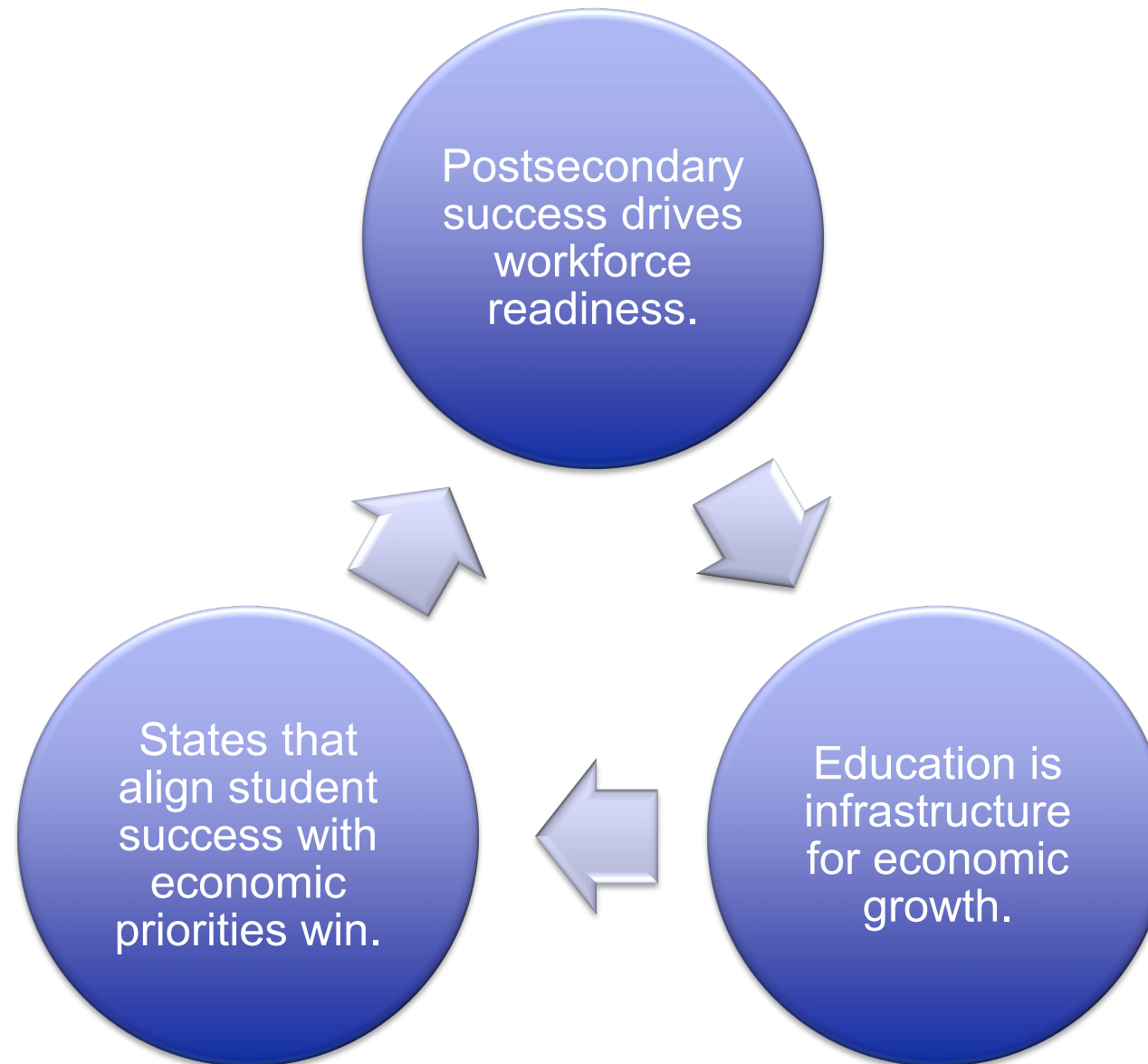
Challenging Coursework

Career Pathways

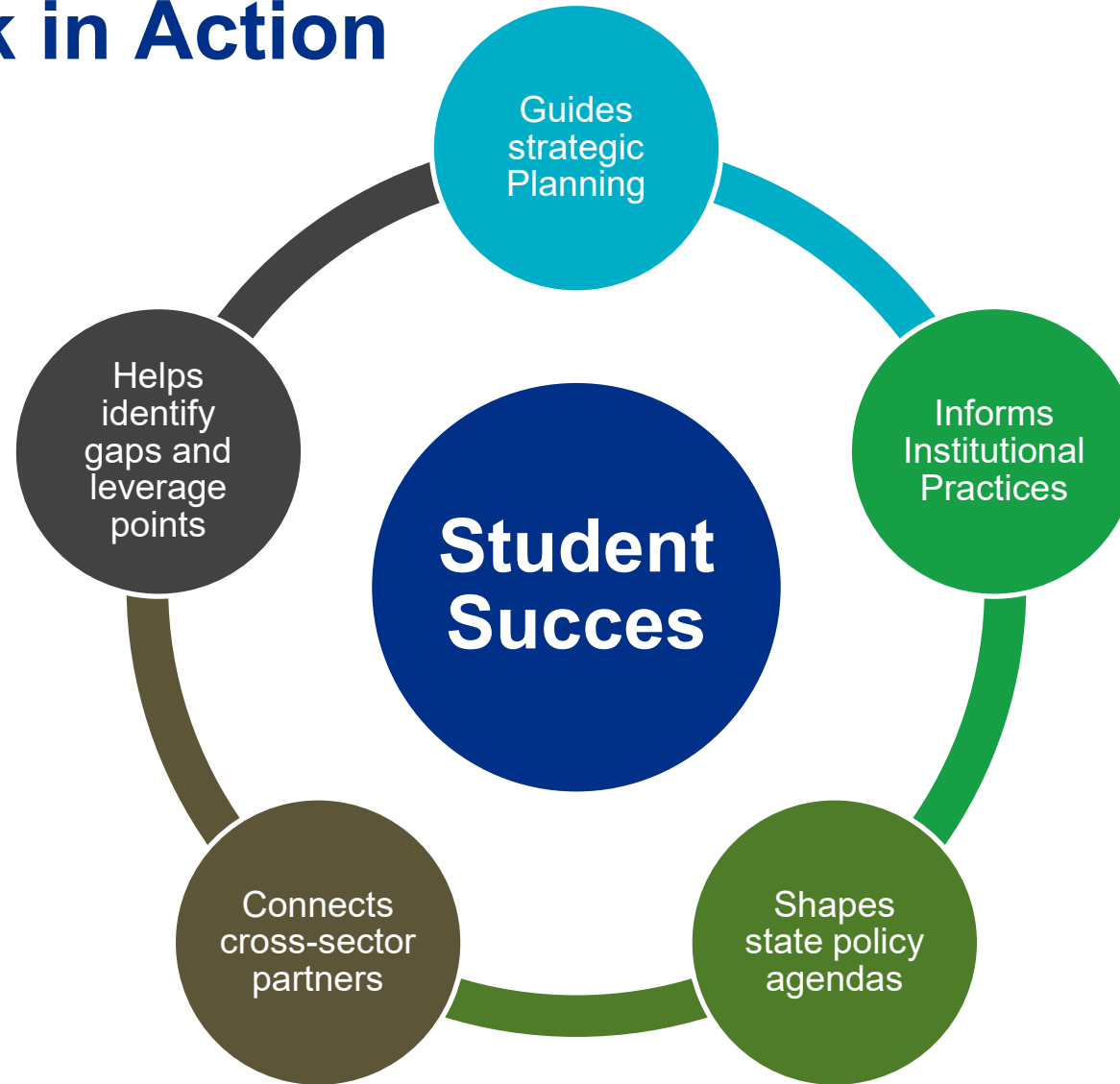
Student Support

Human Capital

How The Framework Aligns with Economic Growth



Framework in Action



Interactive Reflection

As you look at the four pillars, which one do you see as the biggest priority for your state right now?



Turning Pillars into Action: Professional Learning Communities



Why PLCs?

- They create space for collaboration and shared accountability.
- They bring together cross-sector voices around a focused issue.
- They help move from theory → action in manageable steps.

How PLCs connect to the framework?

- Each PLC can be built around one or more pillars (Access, Retention, Persistence, Attainment).
- PLCs use the key practices as building blocks for strategy.

PLC Alignment Exercise

Pick	Pick one pillar (Access, Retention, Persistence, or Attainment).
Identify	Identify a pressing issue in your state related to that pillar (e.g., opportunity gaps, transfer barriers, credential completion).
Discuss	Discuss in groups and list the key people who should be at the table in a PLC to address it (e.g., K–12 leaders, higher ed, workforce, policymakers, community orgs).

Bridging Practice and Policy: Tools for Impact



How can the Student Success Framework guide state-level decisions and policy priorities?

- The PLCs you designed in the last session identify shareholders; now, think about how you would communicate framework priorities to those shareholders.
- If you were speaking with a policymaker, what would they need to understand quickly about the framework?

Policy Toolkit

Instructions for groups:

1. Pick one pillar from the framework (Access, Retention, Persistence, Attainment).
2. Draft a mini-policy toolkit including:
 - One key message a policymaker must hear.
 - One piece of evidence or data to support it.
 - One concrete action a policymaker could take to advance this pillar.



Beyond the Pilot: Scaling Success Across States



Insights and Considerations

- Take your pilot PLC idea and imagine scaling it statewide.
- How would you expand participation while keeping the pilot focused?
- What barriers might arise, and how could you address them?
- What partnerships or resources are critical for success?

Timeline and Next Steps



Call to Action



Use the framework to inform
and prioritize state strategy



Participate in upcoming
convenings



Partner with SREB to
deepen impact

Student Success Summit

Bridging the Gap: A Framework for Student Success

Oct. 29-31, 2025
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, GA

Oct. 29-31, 2025
Atlanta Marriott Marquis



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SREB.org

The **Student Success Key Practices Framework** was developed by members of the **SREB Student Success Steering Committee**. Their collective expertise has shaped a valuable resource designed to guide educational institutions in improving student outcomes across the southern region.

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SREB

2025 Meeting of Legislative & Governors' Staff

September 25-26

Hyatt Centric Midtown Hotel

Atlanta, Georgia



Dual Enrollment, Career Pathways and the Path Forward

Tim Shaughnessy
Director, Career Pathways